

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 INRE-00

INT-05 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6227

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, PFOR, US, PE

SUBJECT: MARCONA NATIONALIZATION

REFS: A) LIMA 6336, B) LIMA 6319

1. AT BOLIVIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION LAST NIGHT FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR, WHO WAS UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY AND EBULLIENT, TOLD ME THAT GOP HAD DECIDED TO NEGOTIATE OUT ITS DIFFERENCES WITH MARCONA (INCLUDING QUESTION OF COMPENSATION) AND THAT I WOULD BE GIVEN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE TODAY (AUGUST 7) (IN REPLY TO MINE) TO THIS EFFECT. THIS WAS CONFIRMED IN LATER CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA, AMBASSADOR MARCHANT, AND WITH INTERIOR MINISTER RICHTER.

2. NONE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES VOLUNTEERED ANY FURTHER DETAILS AND THE GENERAL NOISE LEVEL AND CROWDED COCKTAIL CONDITIONS WERE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS, BUT INTERIOR MINISTER RICHTER TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO HIMSELF HAD GIVEN THE ORDER TO NEGOTIATE, NOT CONFRONT ON MARCONA QUESTION.

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3. MORNING PAPERS, INCLUDING OFFICIAL GAZETTE EL PERUANO, PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS OF MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES (MEM) SETTING FORTH "PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN THE EXPROPRIATION OF THE ASSETS OF THE MARCONA MINING COMPANY." SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THIS COMMUNIQUE AND OUR INITIAL INTERPRETATION OF ITS MEANING.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF MY CONVERSATIONS POINT TO A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE GOP TO OPEN THE DOOR TO DISCUSSIONS WITH MARCONA ON THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION AND MAY AUGUR WELL FOR AN EVENTUAL AMICABLE SOLUTION. HOWEVER, IT IS PREMATURE TO STATE WHAT PROPERTIES MAY BE COVERED UNDER THE TERMS OF MEM'S COMMUNIQUE. AID-MEMOIRE TO BE DELIVERED TODAY MAY PROVIDE US WITH FURTHER INDICATION OF WHAT GOP HAS IN MIND IN REGARD TO AREAS TO BE NEGOTIATED.
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